

# DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

INDIANAPOLIS

## OFFICE MEMORANDUM

DATE: May 16, 1989

TO: Thomas Rarick  
Acting Commissioner

THRU: Robert Graham OEA *Calvin BG*  
Catherine Lynch OEA *Cal*

FROM: Don R. Fitzpatrick *DRF*  
Office of External Affairs

SUBJECT: Gary Development Co. Inc. Landfill Fire

The IDEM Office of Solid and Hazardous Waste was notified Saturday May 13 of a fire at the Gary Development Co., Inc. sanitary landfill, Gary. IDEM OSHW inspector Steve Schafer was called by Ron Novak, Chief of the Hammond Air Pollution Control Department Saturday at 2:30 p.m. Office of Air Management Inspector Rick Reynolds also responded to the fire. Both Schafer and Reynolds are filing inspection reports on the incident.

Allegedly the fire occurred when residue from the East Chicago Sanitary District grinder which was used as daily cover at the landfill caught fire. This type of waste material used in this way is a probable violation of the solid waste rule. Steve Schafer's report will address this lack of compacted clay being used as daily cover with the grinder waste being applied instead. Rick Reynolds report will address the aspect of probable open burning rule violations. At this point there have been very few public complaints.

There appears to be no danger to residents in the community. There was no evacuation of citizens. There has been moderate press interest in the incident. Most media questions address the alleged daily cover solid waste rule violations. The City of Gary Air Pollution Control Office has been in communication with the IDEM and is supportive of assisting the IDEM. Stu Miller IDEM OSHW and Mike Worrell OAM can advise as to the status of any possible enforcement action. I am available to answer questions.

cc: Mike Worrell OAM  
Stu Miller OSHW  
Steve Schafer OSHW  
Rick Reynolds OAM  
Bettie Cadou OEA  
Nell Smith OEA

US EPA RECORDS CENTER REGION 5



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